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Item 16 of the provisional agenda
Cooperation with other international organizations

Summary of cooperative activities with United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to contribute to the work under the Convention

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The secretariat engages in collaborative activities, initiatives and programmes with United Nations entities, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations that enhance and contribute to the work under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. The key objective of the secretariat in such engagement is to support the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and to support the UNFCCC process, as well as Parties to the Convention, in an efficient and effective manner. This document includes information on relevant activities in which the secretariat has been involved with other intergovernmental organizations since the thirty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, requested the secretariat to prepare, before sessions at which the agenda item on cooperation with relevant international organizations is to be taken up, an information paper summarizing relevant cooperative activities.[1]

B. Background

2. Expertise in the field of climate change, with its many interlinkages across various sectors, cannot be concentrated in any one organization. Success in addressing climate change depends on the work of a great number of organizations, all with varying sets of expertise, know-how and resources. With the various mandates emerging from the work under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, the secretariat must engage with relevant actors worldwide in order to seek coordination among actions and to provide guidance to such actors on the relevant mandates. Cooperation among institutions can help to facilitate the transfer and leverage of resources.

3. Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall seek and utilize the services and cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. Thus, the secretariat gives high priority to working with other international organizations, including United Nations entities, secretariats to other multilateral environmental agreements and the scientific community.

4. In the past year the secretariat has sought to ensure that the Convention remains a catalyst for climate action, including through the promotion of cooperation with and among other international organizations. Such work has been carried out taking into account that the ultimate beneficiaries are the Parties to the Convention, their citizens and the planet.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

5. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information provided in this document. It may also wish to invite Parties to provide guidance on the scope and direction of the cooperative activities presented in chapters II and III below. The SBSTA may further wish to make recommendations on: (a) key priority areas in which the secretariat should enhance efforts to leverage the potential contributions of other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to addressing climate change; and (b) possible approaches to undertaking such efforts.

[1] FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 128.

II. Activities in cooperation with the United Nations Headquarters

A. Activities initiated by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

6. The United Nations system is engaged in an action-oriented and coordinated effort to support the international community in addressing the challenge of climate change. United Nations entities have various programmes and projects to address climate change. Each agency contributes to the joint effort of addressing climate change on the basis of its area of expertise, intergovernmental mandate and available resources.

7. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is the highest-level coordination forum of the United Nations system. It supports and reinforces the coordinating role of the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system on social, economic and related matters.

8. A framework for the climate change related activities of the United Nations system was presented by the Secretary-General in December 2007. A subsequent report to the General Assembly for its thematic debate on climate change in February 2008 included an inventory of relevant activities of the United Nations system in the four areas identified in the Bali Action Plan,[2] namely adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance.

9. Subsequently, the CEB Climate Change Action Framework was endorsed by the CEB in April 2008. The framework, which was revised in 2012, focuses on 10 priority areas to which each United Nations agency contributes on the basis of its area of expertise, intergovernmental mandate and available resources. The objective of the framework is to maximize existing synergies, eliminate duplication and overlap, and optimize the impact of the collective efforts of the United Nations system in supporting countries that are implementing strategies to address climate change.

B. Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team

10. The secretariat places high value on its close coordination and collaboration with the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United States of America, in particular with the Climate Change Support Team (CCST) of the Secretary-General. Through the liaison officer based at the CCST offices, the secretariat ensures good communication and coordination with CCST. It also provides support and advice on relevant policy discussions to United Nations entities based in New York and liaises, as appropriate, with permanent missions to the United Nations Headquarters.

III. Specific areas of cooperation

11. This chapter provides an overview of the cooperative activities of the secretariat. It is not a comprehensive account of all activities, initiatives and programmes undertaken by the secretariat. Further information on some of the activities presented can be found in documentation under the relevant agenda items of the SBSTA and other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.

[2] Decision 1/CP.13.

A. Technology

1. Technology Mechanism

12. Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention stipulates that all Parties are to promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in all relevant sectors. The Technology Mechanism was established at COP 16 in order to facilitate the implementation of enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation in order to achieve the full implementation of the Convention. The Technology Mechanism consists of two components: the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

13. The secretariat continues to support the work of the TEC as it engages with a range of stakeholders at the international, regional and national levels, including public institutions, the business community, academia and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in conducting its work.

14. The secretariat supports the TEC by organizing its meetings and events:

(a) As part of the 6th meeting of the TEC, the secretariat helped it to organize a thematic dialogue, held on 27 June 2013 in Bonn, Germany, on the research, development and demonstration of environmentally sound technologies. The dialogue included presentations and a panel discussion by representatives of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the World Bank Group;

(b) The secretariat assisted in the organization of an in-session workshop, during the 7th meeting of the TEC, on technology needs assessments (TNAs), held on 6 September 2013 in Bonn, Germany. The workshop included presentations by representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP Risoe Centre and the participation of representatives of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and IRENA;

(c) Several organizations participated in the meetings of the TEC as observers, and observers not physically present were able to participate virtually via live webcast and Twitter, supported by the secretariat.

15. The secretariat also assisted the TEC in organizing a workshop on technologies for adaptation, held on 4 March 2014 in Bonn, Germany, with the participation of representatives of the European Patent Office, the GEF and the World Intellectual Property Organization. In addition, since the 8th meeting of the TEC, the secretariat has supported the work of internal taskforces of the TEC, which include representatives of United Nations entities and IGOs.

16. With regard to the CTCN, the secretariat supports the COP in its oversight of the CTCN and closely follows the work of the Advisory Board of the CTCN. In addition, the secretariat maintains a working relationship with UNEP as the host of the Climate Technology Centre and has participated in regional training workshops for national designated entities conducted by UNEP.

2. Technology needs assessments

17. The secretariat continues to cooperate with the GEF and UNEP in providing support to developing country Parties in their efforts to conduct and implement the results of their TNAs through the Poznan strategic programme[3] on technology transfer. In preparing the

[3] Decision 2/CP.14.

third synthesis report on technology needs identified by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) for SBSTA 39,[4] the secretariat coordinated with UNEP and the UNEP Risoe Centre.

B. Finance

1. Green Climate Fund

18. The secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) maintains close collaboration with the secretariat. The secretariat follows the developments of the GCF as it works towards its full operationalization. It closely follows the meetings of the Board of the GCF as it prepares to make all of the decisions necessary to receive, manage, programme and disburse financial resources, so that the GCF can commence its initial resource mobilization process as soon as possible and transition subsequently to a formal replenishment process. In addition, the secretariat is working closely with the GCF secretariat on establishing a module for the GCF within the finance portal, which will be restructured in the course of 2014.

2. Standing Committee on Finance

19. At COP 16 Parties decided to establish a Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to assist the COP in exercising its functions in relation to the financial mechanism defined in Article 11 of the Convention. This involves improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, rationalization of the financial mechanism, mobilization of financial resources, and measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties.

20. The secretariat continues to support the work of the SCF, especially with regard to the collaboration and outreach activities that are necessary for most of the work conducted by the SCF. In that context, and with the support of the secretariat, the SCF is currently discussing a communications strategy.

21. Foremost, the secretariat supports the organization of the SCF Forum by facilitating the participation of, inter alia, the private sector, financial institutions and academia therein. The secretariat supported the SCF in the organization of its first forum, which focused on mobilizing finance and investments for climate action now. It took place on 28 May 2013 in Barcelona, Spain, and was organized in collaboration with the World Bank Institute and held back to back with the Carbon Expo. The forum attracted a wide range of different stakeholders, including representatives of Parties, financial institutions, national and multilateral development banks, governments, think tanks, NGOs, international organizations and academia. The second SCF Forum will be held back to back with the Climate Investment Funds 2014 Partnership Forum, from 21 to 22 June 2014 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, focusing on mobilizing adaptation finance. In addition, the secretariat continues to support the SCF also with regard to the further enhancement and maintenance of its virtual forum,[5] for example by issuing open calls for input from stakeholders interested in climate finance.

22. Furthermore, various other activities of the SCF imply close cooperation and collaboration with various stakeholders, including in particular the provision of draft guidance to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, which necessitates close linkages with representatives of those entities. During the 5th and 6th

[4] FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.7.

[5] <www.unfccc.int/SCF/Forum>.

meetings of the SCF, representatives of the GEF and the GCF engaged in substantive discussions with the SCF on that subject matter.[6]

23. With regard to the first biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows in 2014, the SCF, with the support of the secretariat, closely collaborates with climate finance stakeholders specializing in the measurement, reporting and verification of climate finance flows. Through such collaboration, the SCF collects data sets that capture different types of financial flows and solicits expert input on the assessment of those flows. The collaboration is reinforced through continued interaction, including informal technical meetings and calls for input, as well as the exchange of information with other similar thematic bodies and forums outside of the Convention.[7]

3. Extended work programme on long-term finance

24. In 2013 the work programme on long-term finance sustained collaboration with a wide range of climate finance stakeholders. Special attention was given to the involvement of public finance experts, multilateral development banks and development finance institutions, private-sector financial institutions and United Nations public–private partnerships, such as the UNEP Finance Initiative.

4. Adaptation Fund

25. The secretariat continues to participate in the meetings of the Adaptation Fund Board, at which it provides technical advice, including on the interpretation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) from the legal perspective.

26. In addition, the secretariat is preparing a technical paper on the second review of the Adaptation Fund in collaboration with the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat. Furthermore, the secretariat is in constant collaboration with the GEF and the World Bank in their capacities as the provider of secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board and the trustee of the Adaptation Fund on an interim basis, respectively.

5. Global Environment Facility

27. Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention states that the operation of the financial mechanism shall be entrusted to one or more existing international entities. By decision 3/CP.4, the COP decided that the GEF should be an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism. Furthermore, the memorandum of understanding between the COP and the GEF states that the secretariats of the Convention and the GEF shall cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experiences necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in assisting Parties to implement the Convention.[8]

28. The GEF secretariat and the secretariat cooperate closely on various climate finance issues, including the activities of the climate change focal area of the GEF Trust Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). Both secretariats supported the operations of the interim secretariat of the GCF. Additionally, the secretariat interacts regularly with the GEF secretariat through its participation in the meetings of the GEF Council and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, its participation in and provision of input to the sixth replenishment of the GEF, and its organization of an annual retreat for both secretariats.

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[6] All presentations and reports in relation to the meetings of the SCF are available at <http://unfccc.int/6881.php>.

[7] More information on the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows is available at <http://unfccc.int/8034.php>.

[8] Decision 12/CP.2, annex, paragraph 10.

C. Capacity-building

1. Framework for capacity-building in developing countries

29. The secretariat collaborates with a number of IGOs to collect and compile the information needed by the COP, the CMP and their subsidiary bodies to review the progress made in the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.[9] In 2013 the GEF and the secretariat held discussions regarding the participation of the GEF in, and ways to contribute to, the 2nd meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building and the 1st Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention.

2. Durban Forum on capacity-building

30. Cooperation with IGOs is pursued through the organization and convening of the Durban Forum on capacity-building. During the 2nd meeting of the Durban Forum, held in June 2013 during the thirty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), representatives of IGOs[10] contributed to the deliberations by presenting their experiences in delivering capacity-building to enable adaptation and mitigation actions, providing an overview of the capacity-building elements included in their workplans and presenting their efforts to integrate gender perspectives into climate change policies at the national level.

3. United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness

31. Coordinated by the secretariat, the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness[11] aims to support Parties in their efforts to design, initiate and undertake activities related to the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. Through enhanced coordination among its members,[12] it maximizes synergies and the coherence of activities, utilizing available expertise and resources in an efficient manner. In 2013 it supported the organization of the 1st Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention,[13] including through the delivery of a joint presentation on its activities.

4. Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention

32. The 1st Dialogue on Article 6 of the Convention was held during SBI 38. The secretariat ensured effective collaboration with United Nations entities and other IGOs through its work with the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, the International Labour Organization and the secretariat of the GEF, which contributed with presentations and input.

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[9] Decision 2/CP.7.

[10] The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the GEF, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the GCF and the Adaptation Fund.

[11] See <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7403.php> and document FCCC/SBI/2013/20, paragraph 200(c).

[12] The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Department of Public Information, UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNEP, the UNFCCC, the United Nations Institute for Training and Re-earch (UNITAR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), CCST, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization.

[13] See <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/7670.php>.

5. United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change

33. The secretariat continues its work on the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change to enhance the involvement and participation of children and youth in climate change policymaking and action.[14] The Joint Framework Initiative is a partnership between 15 United Nations and intergovernmental entities.[15]

34. The secretariat, through its work on the Joint Framework Initiative and the climate change information network clearing house (CC:iNet),[16] continues to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth in the areas of education, civic engagement and political inclusion.[17]

6. Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

35. The secretariat has established a close working relationship with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) and facilitated a virtual dialogue between the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and youth non-governmental organizations (YOUNGO) in August 2013 and a series of high-level events and workshops with the Envoy and YOUNGO during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw, Poland, in November 2013. The secretariat continues to work closely with OSGEY to ensure the meaningful participation of the international youth climate movement, represented by YOUNGO, at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2014.

7. One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change

36. The secretariat continues its engagement with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) with regard to the advancement of the One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (UN CC:Learn), a cooperative initiative of 33 multilateral organizations.[18] UN CC:Learn supports Member States, United Nations agencies and other development partners in designing and implementing results-oriented and sustainable learning to address climate change.

37. As a direct contribution to the implementation of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention,[19] UN CC:Learn has been supporting five countries (Benin, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi and Uganda) in developing national climate change learning strategies. Moreover, through the platform, the secretariat engages with a number of IGOs, delivering a variety of training courses, e-learning programmes and training materials on climate change.

D. Adaptation

38. The secretariat collaborates with a number of IGOs in relation to adaptation, including the GEF, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk

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[14] Decision 15/CP.18, annex, paragraph 35(f).

[15] FAO, UNICEF, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, the UNFCCC, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UNITAR, the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Volunteers programme and the World Bank.

[16] <http://unfccc.int/cc_inet/cc_inet/items/3514.php>.

[17] See <http://unsceb.org/content/un-system-wide-action-plan-youth>.

[18] A list of all UN CC:Learn partner organizations is available at <http://www.uncclearn.org/focal-points>.

[19] Decision 15/CP.18.

Reduction, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

1. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

39. The secretariat continues to facilitate the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) through collaboration with various organizations, consistent with the mandate of the LEG to engage the GEF and its agencies and a wide range of organizations in implementing the work programme of the LEG.[20] Specific activities of the secretariat since SBI 38 include:

(a) The invitation of the GEF and its agencies to the meetings of the LEG to further explore the issues of some least developed country (LDC) Parties related to accessing funds from the LDCF;

(b) Collaboration with the GEF and its agencies, the secretariat of CBD, bilateral agencies, regional centres and networks, and regional and international organizations on gender and vulnerable communities in the organization of the LEG regional training workshops on adaptation for the LDCs for 2012–2013;[21]

(c) The involvement of the GEF and its agencies, international organizations and agencies, and regional centres and networks in the national adaptation plan (NAP) Expo in June 2013,[22] and the technical meeting on NAPs in February 2014,[23] as a way to enhance action and the provision of support to the LDCs in the NAP process.

2. National adaptation plans

40. The cooperation of the secretariat with various organizations has contributed to the evolution of action and the provision of support to LDC Parties and other developing country Parties that are not LDCs in relation to NAPs. Specific activities of the secretariat since SBI 38 include facilitating the engagement of a wide range of organizations in supporting the LEG in providing technical guidance and support to the LDCs as detailed in chapter II.D.1 above, as well as collaborating with the GEF and its agencies on designing support in response to mandates provided by the COP.

41. The secretariat engaged in various discussions with the GEF on the preparation of the operational guidelines for providing financial resources to LDC Parties and other developing country Parties that are not LDCs, through the LDCF and the SCCF, for the formulation of NAPs. The GEF has since issued the guidelines, entitled *Operationalizing Support to the Preparation of the National Adaptation Plan Process in Response to Guidance from the UNFCCC COP*. According to those guidelines, Parties can now access resources from the LDCF and the SCCF through the existing GEF modalities of medium-sized projects, full-sized projects and programmatic approaches.

42. Furthermore, the secretariat is among the partners of the NAP Global Support Programme for the LDCs.[24] The programme, established in response to an invitation made by the COP,[25] is aimed at supporting the LDCs through the brokering of knowledge, institutional support and technical support to advance their NAPs.

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[20] Decision 8/CP.13, paragraph 5, and decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 5.
[21] For information on the workshops, see document FCCC/SBI/2013/16.
[22] See <http://unfccc.int/7453>.
[23] See <http://unfccc.int/8024>.
[24] See <http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs>.
[25] Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 23.

3. Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

43. The objective of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is to assist all Parties, in particular developing country Parties, including the LDCs and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

44. The Nairobi work programme is implemented by Parties, IGOs and NGOs, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders. The SBSTA encourages the active engagement of adaptation stakeholders in its implementation through mandated activities. The work programme disseminates knowledge and information on adaptation and highlights the work of partners as widely as possible through a variety of knowledge products and publications. Organizations, institutions and private-sector organizations at all levels and in a wide range of sectors can become engaged with the work programme by becoming a partner and making action pledges. Since its inception, the Nairobi work programme has engaged over 284 partners, including a number of United Nations system organizations and other IGOs.

E. Mitigation

45. A number of IGOs worldwide are engaged in mitigation-related activities, including in the context of measurement, reporting and verification.

1. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions

46. Pursuant to decision 1/CP.16, developing countries have agreed to take nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology financing and capacity-building, aimed at achieving a deviation in emissions relative to 'business as usual' emissions by 2020.

47. The secretariat cooperates with several initiatives aimed at helping developing countries to prepare and implement their NAMAs,[26] including:

(a) In cooperation with international and bilateral organizations, organizing regional technical workshops to share experiences and lessons learned relating to the preparation and implementation of NAMAs;[27]

(b) Participating in the NAMA Partnership, a group of multilateral organizations, bilateral cooperation agencies and think tanks aimed at enhancing collaboration and complementarity to accelerate the provision of support to developing countries for their NAMAs;[28]

(c) Contributing to the coordination of the activities of three international partnerships: the NAMA Partnership, the Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership and the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV;

(d) Cooperating with UNDP and UNEP to produce technical material on various aspects of NAMAs, such as the *Guidance for NAMA design*, which was presented at COP 18.

[26] As requested in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 23, and decision 16/CP.18, paragraph 11.
[27] Additional information is available at <http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/items/7429.php>.
[28] See <http://www.namapartnership.org/>.

2. Cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization

48. The secretariat, in its role as observer, regularly participates in meetings of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection under the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee under the International Maritime Organization (IMO), informing those committees of relevant developments under the UNFCCC and providing advice to the secretariats of ICAO and IMO on relevant issues. At the beginning of 2014 a secretariat staff member was seconded to the ICAO secretariat in order to support the mandated work on market-based approaches to addressing GHG emissions from international aviation under ICAO.

3. Collaboration with the International Energy Agency

49. The secretariat collaborates closely with IEA on a number of issues. Every year it revises and provides comments on drafts of the *World Energy Outlook* published by IEA. Both organizations have regular exchanges in relation to energy-related issues, including on data, projections and policies.

50. At SBSTA 38 the secretariat collaborated with IEA in organizing a presentation to UNFCCC delegates on its publication *Redrawing the Climate-Energy Map*.

51. In addition, the secretariat maintains constant cooperation with IEA in the context of the expert reviews of national GHG inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

4. Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme

52. The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), with support from the secretariat, collaborates with UNDP and UNEP (as a joint administrator of the National Communications Support Programme and Global Support Programme) in addressing the capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications and biennial update reports, which entail reporting information on, among other things, mitigation and the national GHG inventory. Through their representation in the CGE, UNDP and UNEP contribute to various elements of the work programme of the CGE.

5. Contribution to the operation of the United Nations wide data portal

53. The secretariat provides regular updates to the GHG data presented on the United Nations wide data portal (UNData),[29] which contributes to the capability of UNData to serve as a United Nations wide platform for data dissemination within and outside of the United Nations system.

6. Support to the implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

54. The preparation of inventories of air pollutants under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) is substantively linked to the preparation of GHG inventories; the linkages are both organizational and technical. The exchange of information between the secretariat and CLRTAP, in particular within the framework of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, helps all stakeholders in the process to improve coordination and anticipate further developments.

[29] <http://data.un.org/>.

7. Collaboration with the Montreal Protocol/Ozone Secretariat

55. The secretariat collaborates with the Ozone Secretariat in the context of addressing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) that have a high global warming potential as well as substances used to substitute ODS that also have a high global warming potential. The secretariat coordinates relevant activities with the Ozone Secretariat and both secretariats participate regularly in their respective meetings. Through this participation, UNFCCC expertise and knowledge contributes to the work under the Montreal Protocol and expertise and knowledge from the Ozone Secretariat can contribute to relevant work under the UNFCCC.

8. The clean development mechanism and the Nairobi Framework

56. The Nairobi Framework[30] is an initiative that began with the collaboration of the secretariat with a number of agencies, including UNDP, UNEP and the UNEP Risoe Centre, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Nairobi Framework has the specific target of helping developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, to improve their level of participation in the clean development mechanism (CDM). The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and UNITAR have also joined the partnership since its inception.

57. Together, the partners of the Nairobi Framework, in cooperation with other organizations, including the International Emissions Trading Association, continue to support the organization of the Africa Carbon Forum. The 5th forum was successfully delivered in July 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The secretariat also delivered, in collaboration with UNDP, capacity-building events in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in June 2013 and in Manila, the Philippines, in September 2013. In addition, the secretariat cooperates with other organizations, including the Asian Development Bank and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, to deliver capacity-building for a range of stakeholders and support for project development, such as the regional distribution workshop that was held in Manila, the Philippines, in September 2013. Through the CDM Loan Scheme,[31] partners approved 18 new loans for projects located in countries with fewer than 10 registered CDM project activities, of which three were registered to receive support from the scheme, while others are undergoing validation and verification.

F. Climate knowledge: science, research and systematic observation

58. Cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat and other agencies has been a major and key component of the further development and enhancement of scientific knowledge on climate change through research and systematic observation of the climate system around the world. In that context, the secretariat continues to collaborate closely with scientific programmes, agencies and organizations, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), WMO, GCOS, UNEP, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

59. The collaboration with the IPCC, in its role as the primary provider of scientific information to the UNFCCC process, has continued throughout the past year. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report will be one of the key inputs to the 2013–2015 review. The secretariat closely follows the work of the IPCC and participates as an observer in its

[30] <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Nairobi_Framework/index.html>.
[31] See <http://cdmloanscheme.org/>.

meetings, including plenaries for the approval of the contributions of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report.

60. The IPCC continuously responds to the various mandates and invitations arising from the UNFCCC process. The secretariat has collaborated with the IPCC on a number of issues, including on the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands* and the *2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol*.

G. Gender

61. The secretariat continues its collaboration with other IGOs to mainstream gender considerations in various climate change thematic areas. The secretariat has strengthened its cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), collaborating on gender-responsive climate policy, including providing input, exchanging information and participating in online discussions, events and workshops. The secretariat is also an active participant in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Some of the secretariat's activities with a focus on gender and climate change or with gender-related components during the past year include:

(a) Cooperation on gender issues with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD, including the convening of the Rio Conventions Pavilion on Gender Day in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD on 25 September 2013 in Windhoek, Namibia;

(b) The organization of a Gender Day at the Warsaw conference on 19 November 2013, which included a series of activities dedicated to the topic of gender and climate change. A number of IGOs, including UN Women, UNDP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), cooperated with the secretariat in the organization of the Gender Day and actively contributed to the events held;

(c) The organization of an in-session workshop during the Warsaw conference on gender balance in the UNFCCC process, gender-sensitive climate policy and capacity-building activities to promote the greater participation of women in the UNFCCC process, held on 12 November 2013, with the participation of representatives of UNDP, UN Women, IUCN and other organizations;

(d) The development of a technical paper[32] within the framework of the Nairobi work programme in cooperation with several IGOs.

H. Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions

62. Through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the secretariat maintains close cooperation with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD. The three Executive Secretaries will meet again during 2014 to discuss ways to enhance the collaboration between the secretariats and to seek opportunities to promote and raise awareness of the synergies in the implementation of the conventions.

63. Since SBSTA 38 the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD and the UNFCCC have continued their collaboration, helping to highlight the synergies in the implementation of each convention on the ground and at the national level.

[32] FCCC/TP/2013/11.

I. United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda

1. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators

64. In 2000 the leaders of 189 nations agreed on a vision for the future: a world with less poverty, hunger and disease, greater survival prospects for mothers and their infants, better-educated children, equal opportunities for women and a healthier environment; a world in which developed and developing countries work in partnership for the betterment of all. That vision took the shape of eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which provide a framework of time-bound targets by which progress can be measured.

65. To help track progress, international and national statistical experts (organized into the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG)) selected indicators to assess progress over the period from 1990 to 2015, when targets are expected to be met. One of the MDG indicators is carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions (total, per capita and per unit of gross domestic product). The secretariat is a member of IAEG, providing CO_2 emission data for developed countries. The global and regional trends in CO_2 emissions are regularly covered in the annual MDG reports.[33]

2. The post-2015 development agenda

66. The discussions related to the policy processes of the post-2015 development agenda are closely linked to climate change, including the discussions of the Open-ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG). Given the importance and interlinkages of the climate and post-2015 development agenda processes, the secretariat closely follows the latter, recognizing that they are two separate but 'twin' processes.

67. Furthermore, the secretariat continues its engagement with other United Nations entities and acts as a co-lead, together with WMO, in providing substantive input to the co-chairs of OWG through the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. With such engagement, the secretariat seeks to ensure that the appropriate synergies and linkages between the two processes are adequately reflected and taken into account. It is notable that the document presenting 19 focus areas for the post-2015 process issued by OWG on 24 February 2014[34] refers explicitly to climate change: "Climate change poses a grave threat to sustainable development and poverty eradication".

68. As part of IAEG, the secretariat contributed to the formulation of lessons learned in the MDG process, in view of the ongoing activities across the United Nations system to develop the sustainable development goals to be pursued within the framework of a post-2015 development agenda.[35]

J. Global Compact

69. The private sector has significant potential to contribute, through technology and finance, to the fight against climate change. The secretariat continues its engagement in the Caring for Climate initiative with the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP. The

[33] The latest MDG report (for 2013) is available at <http://mdgs.un.org>.

[34] Available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3276focusareas.pdf>.

[35] A summary of the lessons learned is available in the latest report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the MDGs at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-29-Indicators-E.pdf>.

initiative seeks to advance the role of business in addressing climate change. Under the Caring for Climate initiative, the secretariat engaged in the organization of a Business Forum during the Warsaw conference in November 2013.

K. Communications

70. In the past year the secretariat has intensified its efforts in its outreach and communications strategy, seeking to make the messages communicated on climate change simpler and easier to understand by the wider public and to ensure that they portray the possibilities and opportunities in addressing climate change. The secretariat works closely with the United Nations Department of Public Information on the overall communication of messages on climate change towards ensuring consistency and coordination across the entire United Nations system.